
South Dakota HPV Vaccination Initiative

South Dakota Department of Health

During his 2007 State of the State address, Governor Rounds announced the state would launch a one-year initiative to offer HPV vaccine free to South Dakota girls from ages 11 through 18. The Gardasil vaccine can prevent the strains of HPV (*human papilloma virus*) that cause up to 70% of all cervical cancer. The following fact sheet was developed to provide more information about the initiative.

1. Who is eligible for free HPV vaccine (Gardasil) under the state initiative?
All South Dakota females from ages 11 through 18 are eligible. If the female turns 19 after starting the series, she will be eligible for the free vaccine to complete the series.
2. Is the HPV vaccine mandatory?
No. The HPV vaccination program is completely voluntary. Parents are encouraged to make their decision about the vaccine in consultation with their medical providers.
3. When will the free vaccine be available? How long will it be available
The free vaccine program begins January 22 and runs through December 31, 2007.
4. How is the vaccine given?
The vaccine is given as an injection in a series of 3 doses. Ideally, the doses should be given on the following schedule:
 - 1st Dose - the date you and your health care professional choose**
 - 2nd Dose - 2 months after the first dose**
 - 3rd Dose - 6 months after the 1st dose.**
5. If I start my HPV series in 2007 but can't complete it during the calendar year will I still get the rest of my doses free?
Yes, if you complete the series in 2008.
6. Do I need to get all three doses from the same health care provider?
No
7. Will I need a booster dose at some later date?
At this point in time booster doses are not indicated.
8. Where can I get the vaccine?
The vaccine will be available at those physician offices that are enrolled in the immunization program, Community Health Nursing offices, Indian Health Service Clinics, Rural Health Clinics and Community Health Centers. Find a vaccine provider near you at <http://www.state.sd.us/doh/Address/vacmap.htm>
9. What are the possible side effects of Gardasil?
Gardasil has been shown to be generally well tolerated in women and girls as young as 9 years of age. The most commonly reported side effects include pain, swelling, itching, and redness at the injection site, fever, nausea and dizziness.

10. Will I have to pay an administration fee for the vaccine?

You may be charged for an office visit and/or an administration fee, depending on the individual provider. Since the Department of Health is supplying the vaccine free to providers, if you are unable to pay the administration fee, it must be waived.

11. If I've already had my daughter vaccinated with the HPV vaccine, can I be reimbursed for that cost?

The funding for this program is for the purchase of vaccine. There is no mechanism to reimburse people who have already been vaccinated.

12. If I complete the vaccine series, do I still need to get my yearly Pap test?

Vaccination with Gardasil does not take the place of Pap tests (cervical cancer screenings). Follow your doctor's recommendation on when you should get a Pap test.

13. Can I get vaccinated if I've had sexual relations? If I've had cervical cancer?

Yes to both questions. You may benefit from the vaccine even if you have had sexual relations, already have HPV, or have cervical cancer. Most people are not infected with all four types of HPV contained in the vaccine.

14. If I've had a baby can I get the vaccination?

Yes. However, Gardasil is not recommended if you are currently pregnant.

15. Do parents have to give permission for the vaccination?

As with any vaccine, parental consent is required for children younger than 18. Females 18 and older and emancipated minors can provide consent for themselves.

16. Will the department hold special clinics for the HPV vaccine?

At this point special clinics are not planned. Parents are encouraged to seek the vaccine through their doctor's office, Indian Health Service Clinic, Rural Health Clinic, Community Health Center, or Department of Health Community Health Services office. Find a vaccine provider near you at <http://www.state.sd.us/doh/Address/vacmap.htm>.

17. Are there any girls who should not get this vaccination?

Girls should not receive the vaccination if they are allergic to any of the ingredients in the vaccine or have an allergic reaction after getting a dose of the vaccine.

18. How do the clinics or offices order the vaccine?

Vaccine is ordered through the department the same way as other childhood vaccines.

19. What about 19 - 26 year olds? Is this free vaccine program for them?

Patients that are 19 - 20 years old and Medicaid eligible will receive the vaccine through the Medicaid program.

For women in that age group who are not Medicaid eligible, the vaccine manufacturer (Merck) offers a Vaccine Patient Assistance Program. Women are eligible for the program if all three of the following conditions apply:

- **You reside in the United States and are age 19 or older (you do not have to be a U.S. citizen)**
- **You have no health insurance coverage (examples of health insurance coverage include private insurance, HMOs, PPOs, college health plans, Medicaid, Veterans' assistance, or other social service agency support)**
- **You have an annual household income less than**

1. \$19,600 for individuals
2. \$26,400 for couples or
3. \$40,000 for a family of four

Find out more at Merck's website, www.merck.com/merckhelps/vaccines/home.html or call toll free at (800) 293-3881; 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM EST.

Other patients should check with their insurance plans to see if the vaccine is covered.

20. What is the average cost of treating cervical cancer?

- **In the year 2000, it was estimated that the cost of treating HPV-related diseases in the United States reached almost \$4 billion.** (American Cancer Society. Cancer facts & figures 2005)
- **The annual cost of treating a woman who has cervical cancer is \$20,255 if the cancer has not spread beyond the cervix, \$36,912 if it has spread to other parts of the body.**

21. Are there other ways to prevent cervical cancer? Are there other ways to prevent HPV?
Regular Pap tests and follow-up can prevent most, but not all, cases of cervical cancer. Pap tests can detect cell changes in the cervix before they turn into cancer and can also detect most, but not all, cervical cancers at an early, curable stage. Most women diagnosed with cervical cancer in the U.S. have either never had a Pap test, or have not had one in the last 5 years.

The only sure way to prevent HPV is to abstain from all sexual activity. Sexually active adults can reduce their risk by being in a mutually faithful relationship with someone who has had no other or few sex partners, or by limiting their number of sex partners. But even persons with only one lifetime sex partner can get HPV, if their partner has had previous partners.